

All Around Pennsauken



VOL. 26, NO. 7

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July 2021

Pennsauken Announces Personnel Changes To Key Township Roles

Pennsauken Township has announced the following changes to its municipal government, administration, and public safety program: Tim Killion has stepped down as a member of Township Committee to become the town's administrator; Joseph V. Palumbo, Sr. has moved from interim administrator to public safety director, continuing his role as chief of the Pennsauken Township Fire Department; and Captain Phil Olivo became interim chief of the Pennsauken Township Police Department. These moves were made official at the Township Committee meeting on Thursday, June 3.

Killion Becomes New Administrator



As Pennsauken Township's new administrator, Tim Killion oversees the day-to-day operations of the town, coordinating the activities of various Township departments. Prior to this role, Killion was a member of Pennsauken Township Committee since July of 2019 and served as the town's mayor in 2020. Previously, Killion was vice president of marketing, communications, and brand for EDA Contractors in Philadelphia, Pa. He is a graduate of Marymount University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business, with a specialization in human resources.

"I want to thank Township Committee

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The Class Of 2021 Graduates From Pennsauken High School

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

As pandemic restrictions on public gatherings lessened, the Pennsauken School District gathered with family and friends to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2021.

On June 19, Pennsauken High School had three commencements. Two ceremonies were held at Vince McAneney Stadium; the third was in the school gymnasium because of inclement weather. But regardless of the location, the joy of the graduates and the pride of their families and high school staff were more than apparent.

"The 2020-2021 school year has been a memorable one to say the least. COVID-19

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The Class of 2021 throws their caps in the air as they become the newest alumni of Pennsauken High School.

Patrick Olivo Joins Pennsauken Township Committee



During the public meeting on June 17, longtime resident Patrick Olivo took the oath of office to become the newest member of Pennsauken Township Committee.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At last month's public meeting, Patrick Olivo became the newest member of Pennsauken Township Committee. The 37-year resident is filling the open seat created after the resignation of Tim Killion, who stepped down to take the role of the town's new administrator.

"I'm very excited," said Olivo. "It's a huge challenge taking over Tim's spot, but I'm always up for a challenge. I'm ready."

Mr. Olivo, 41, is a supervisor with the Pennsauken

Sewerage Authority, where he's worked for 17 years. A past member of the Pennsauken Environmental Commission, Patrick has also previously served on the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment as an alternate. For many years, Olivo has helped with Pennsauken's annual Angel Tree program, as well as the town's holiday home decorating contests. In addition, he is an avid blood and platelet donor.

"Working with the public for so many years, I really have a desire to give back," explained Olivo. "Being a part of Township Committee is a great opportunity to do so."

Patrick and his wife, Lyndsy, are raising their two young children here in the Iron Rock section of town. A proud member of Pennsauken High School's Class of 2004

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National Night Out
On August 3
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Mini Clean-Up Events Help Beautify Outdoor Spaces

The Pennsauken Environmental Commission and the Township's Parks and Recreation Department have scheduled several mini clean-up events to help beautify the town's outdoor spaces.

There are monthly mini clean-ups scheduled for August through October. Each clean-up will have a maximum of

15 people. Participants (individuals or a team of family members) will be provided with trash bags, a bucket, gloves, and a trash picker. As volunteers will be working outdoors, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

The following are the scheduled clean-ups:

- Aug. 29, 10:00 a.m. Pennsauken Creek, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.
- Sept. 11, 10:00 a.m., "The Pit," 4339 Burwood Ave.
- Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m., Tippin's Pond, 421 Cove Rd.

Registration is required by at least two days prior to event. Once there are enough people, volunteers will be put on a waiting list and called if there is an opening.

Volunteers can wear face masks and

practice social distancing if they wish. If you feel ill within 24 hours of the cleanup; come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting results from a test; and/or you yourself are waiting on COVID-19 test results or have tested positive for the virus, please let the organizers know and stay home. There will be plenty more clean-ups to attend when you feel better.

To register, please contact Stephanie Laurick at slauricknature@gmail.com or Duke Martz at emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us. Please include your full name, number of people (family) attending, the date/location of the clean-up of interest, and a good phone number and/or email address to contact in case there is a volunteer cancellation, or the event is canceled or moved to another date.



Important Numbers

Pennsauken Township Municipal Building:

(856) 665-1000

Clerk: x122, 123 or 124

Construction: x130, 131, or 132

Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171

Economic Development: x108

Housing/Resale/Rental: x145

Mayor's Office: x152 or 155

Parks and Recreation: x151

Planning and Zoning: x128

Senior Services: x125

Tax Assessor: x112 or 116

Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

Pennsauken Country Club:

(856) 662-4961

Pennsauken Free Public Library:

(856) 665-5959

Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau:
(856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court:
(856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control:
(856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter:
(856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:
(856) 665-8787

Merchantville-Pennsauken
Water Commission
(856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority:
(856) 663-5542

South Jersey Sanitation
(Trash/Recycling Vendor):
(609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services:
(856) 225-8800

Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
(CCMUA): (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:
(800) 272-1325



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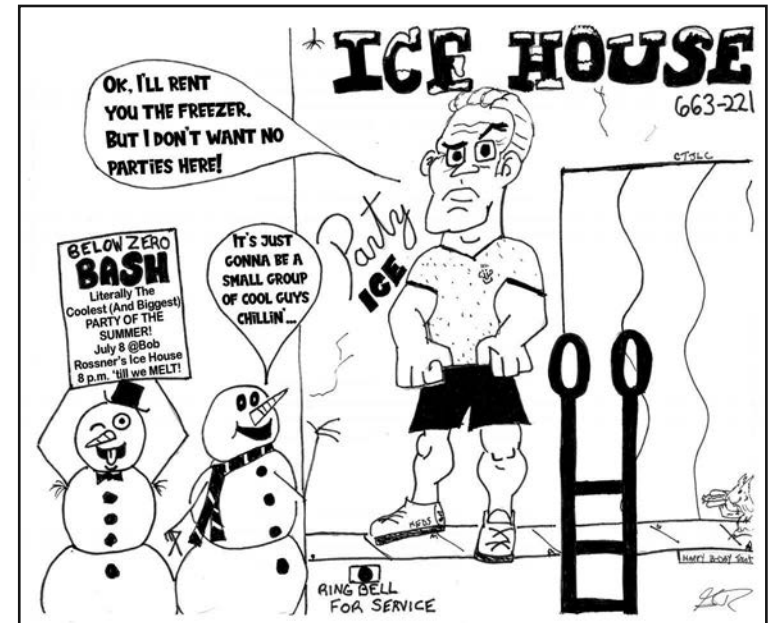
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MAYOR'S CORNER Moving Past The Pandemic With Exciting Things Ahead



By Marco DiBattista,
Mayor of Pennsauken
Township

I'd first like to thank everyone who came out for our fireworks display last month. It was a great time, and a perfect evening to get outside and enjoy each other's company. We billed the event as a summer kick off, but really it was a celebration of life. This year has been trying in a lot of ways. We've all been through a lot. And now that we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, it's important to bring our community together and have an opportunity to celebrate what is looking to be the end of this virus.

We're hard at work putting together more great public events for our residents. Please save the date for Tuesday,

Aug. 3, when our first responders will be hosting National Night Out from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave.; as well as the return of our Car and Bike Show, held on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., along Maple Ave. by Pinsetter Bar and Bowl. We can't wait to see more of our neighbors and friends.

And while we celebrate as a community, we still need to remember all those affected by the coronavirus. We've lost a lot of good people because of COVID-19; our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to their families and friends. And for those residents who haven't done so yet, we strongly recommend that you get vaccinated. It's easier than ever to get protected. Camden County has a variety of pop-up community vaccination events scheduled for July. For details, visit their

website at CamdenCounty.com.

I also want to congratulate Pennsauken High School's Class of 2021 for navigating a challenging year and receiving their diplomas. As a fellow alum of PHS, I wish you much success in your future endeavors. Your family, your friends, your entire community, is cheering you on. Whether it's college, a job in the trades, or military service, we know that you will do your best to represent our town well. We are Pennsauken proud.

Please be sure to follow the Township on our official social media channels for the latest updates. You can also subscribe to our email list by visiting our website at twp.pennsauken.nj.us and clicking on the "Keep Me Informed" button.

Have a great July and Happy Independence Day! I wish you health and safety for you and your family.

Lifestyle Hair Lounge Holds Grand Opening



Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista was on hand for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of Lifestyle Hair Lounge, located at 5245 Marlton Pike, Ste. F, in Pennsauken.

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Mark Anthony "Tony" Knox
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Tony is a long-time resident of the area. Tony grew up in Merchantville where he found his passion in selling Merchantville's Old World Charm. He has been selling homes in the area since 1994. Nobody knows Merchantville like Tony does. Call Tony today for all your Real Estate needs.



Mary "Noel" Whelan
(609) 315-1926

Noel has been a sales-associate with our company for 16 years. Noel is a longtime resident of Pennsauken who enjoys helping her customers see their dream of homeownership realized. If you are looking to buy or sell, call Noel today.



Merchantville – Beautiful Historic Home

Check out this impressive 4800 square foot home. This neo-classical home is tucked away in the nationally registered Oaks Historic District. This beauty offers 6 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. You won't want to miss this one. Call for additional details as there are many. Asking \$495,000



Welcome To Merchantville!

This brick Cape Cod features a Formal Living Room, Formal Dining Room, and an Eat-in-Kitchen. There is a 1st floor bedroom and an additional room that was used as a music room. Upstairs features a spacious main bedroom with lots of closet space, a large additional room has a cedar closet and a full bath. Did I mention the Bright & Sunny Solarium. The lower-level features new paint and carpeting in the main game/family room. There is also a bonus room and workshop. Asking \$ 274,900



Merchantville – Beautiful Victorian

This Magnificent true Victorian nestled in Historic Cattell Tract has it all! Stunning features include: gorgeous wrap around front porch, Country Kitchen with custom built-ins, Butlered Pantry, Parlor with pocket doors, 9ft. plus ceilings, detached Carriage House, sprawling deck out back, Gas Fireplace in the Family Room, 2 staircases. This beauty also has a central vac system, dual zoned gas heat, timeline roof and is conveniently located near bridges and major highways. The attic is finished and can be used as an additional bedroom, office or play area! Asking \$400,000



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WAGSWORLD Wagner's Wares On Display This Month At The Station

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

This month's column is sort of a follow up to the last article. For those of you who didn't read June's column, the bears, who were finally finished and display ready, moved to temporary housing in Merchantville, at the Station. They have been quite well received, and are a hit, especially with the little kids. So much so, in fact, that I have been invited to be the guest artist for the month of July. I get to pull together a whole bunch of canes, sticks, statues, hangers, and ornaments, including another bear, and they all will be on display indoors all month.

On one or two Saturdays, I will be stationed outside, in the shade, carving on a bear to show anyone interested how it's done. I will also be in extreme proximity to all the cookies and cakes Nicole, the owner/chef, and her hubby, Matt, have

for sale. With my usual lack of self-control, I expect to gain more in girth than in sales.

For those of you who have seen the occasional posting on Facebook, here is a chance to see the carvings up close. The Christmas ornaments are all up for adoption, as are most of the other strange and mysterious works. For those of you who could care less about the hobby collection of locally carved wood figures, come find the equally enticing collection of cake, cookies, gelato, coffee, and other delicious stuff.

The Station is the converted train station on Centre and Chestnut, along the walking path. I'll be outside eating and talking the second Friday and Saturday of July, and the fifth Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1.

The bride, who thinks of this showing as an opportunity to clear her house of my productions, promises to be on hand to

encourage others to take stuff home. She would like nothing better than to clear house, and will, no doubt, be offering product at special Christmas in July pricing.

While taking up all this month's column with shameless, self-promoting advertising, I might as well see if any of the readers have a line on a Lab pup. The extended family has been dogless for a few years

now, and the time, it appears, has come. The grands are clamoring for doggie companionship, "Grandpop" has nothing but time on his hands, and even the bride is missing the hair removal ritual before attending dress up gatherings. My old hunting buddy connections have about dried up, as they are all even older than I.

So, we all pretend that the kids' prom-

ise to "take care of the dog" will last more than a week. We will happily forget muddy paw prints, stolen defrosting dinners, hair everywhere, and chases down the street. Instead, only the great memories of unconditional love, evening cuddles, and happy antics will remain, as we await a young dog's adoption. Wish us all luck. I will report more later.

Local Food Pantries Helping Those In Need

The following is a list of food pantries in Pennsauken and Merchantville that regularly assist local families in need:

- Circle of Hope (food delivered to an individual's home); every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 320-8230
- Gates of Praise, 6345 Wisteria Ave.; every second and fourth Friday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; (856) 473-5417
- First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville, 10 W. Maple Ave.; July 11 and 25, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.; (856) 662-6252
- Martin Luther Chapel, 4100 Terrace Ave.; every second Wednesday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; (856) 665-0116
- Mary Queen of All Saints, 4824 Camden Ave.; every Saturday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (856) 662-2721

den Ave.; every Saturday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (856) 662-2721

- Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd.; every first Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 662-8500
- Saint Matthew's Methodist Church, 1665 Derosse Ave.; every third Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (856) 662-3610
- Serenity Christian Worship Center, 3555 Haddonfield Rd. - Suite B; every third Friday, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and every second Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon; (856) 330-4915
- Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Rt. 130; every fourth Saturday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.; (856) 663-7783

• World Harvest Christian Center, 7201 Westfield Ave.; every other Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (856) 389-9191
Volunteers, as well as food and financial donations, are greatly appreciated by these organizations; to do so, please reach out using the contact information provided in this article.

Para obtener esta lista en español, visite www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/local-food-pantries.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Petty's Island Cleanup Scheduled For October 9

New Jersey Audubon, in partnership with the Pennsauken Environmental Commission, is hosting a cleanup of Petty's Island on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This cleanup will focus on the shoreline, where marine debris threatens the health of both wildlife and humans.

Petty's Island is privately-owned and undergoing an amazing transformation from

an active marine terminal and oil storage facility into a state park. Access to the island is limited, so don't miss this opportunity to see the island and help in its transformation.

Registration is required to participate. Children must be 12 or older and accompanied by an adult.

To register, visit <https://pifallcleanup21.eventbrite.com>.

**For advertising rates and information call 662-5100
or email allaroundsouth@aol.com**

PENNSAUKEN JULY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are held on the second floor of the Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave.)

Township Committee
July 1 and 15, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment
July 7 and 21, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board
July 6 and 27, 6:30 p.m.



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EDITOR'S DESK Looking At The Significance Of 1984 And Its Impact Today

EDITOR'S
DESK



By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

I apologize if the headline for this article is misleading. I'm sure some of you were looking forward to a dissertation of George Orwell's dystopian novel, "1984." This isn't about that, although I hear the book is doubleplusgood.

Instead, this is a nostalgic look back to the actual year of 1984. I was 10 years old, and the world was no bigger than my Pennbrook neighborhood. And what a year it was.

Cartoons were awesome: "Super Friends: The Legendary Super Powers Show," "Transformers," and "Voltron" hit the scene, joining "Dungeons and Dragons," "G.I. Joe," and "He-Man and the Masters of the Universe" as must-watch television. I was sad that "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends" wasn't renewed for a third season, though I do get to watch them now on Disney+. They don't quite hold up, but it's a still a guilty pleasure.

Toy aisles were filled with action figures of all shapes and sizes. "Star Wars" was still white hot. And a lot of the characters in my favorite cartoon shows had

their likenesses in plastic form, enticing young boys to beg their mothers to add them to their collection. The Atari was on its way out, but the ole' 2600 had some life to it. That is until Nintendo came out the following year.

Prince and the Revolution, Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, Duran Duran, Lionel Richie, Steve Perry, Billy Idol, Billy Joel, The Police, Bruce Springsteen, among others, were standards on radio stations' rotations. Classic artists and one-hit wonders offered a cacophony of joyous sound... at least for a child of the 80s. Also in 1984, the first MTV Music Awards aired. Remember when MTV played music? And who could forget Michael Jackson catching his hair on fire?

Then there was "Footloose," which unveiled Kevin Bacon to the world and gave Kenny Loggins a number one hit. You also had "Beverly Hills Cop," "Ghostbusters," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Gremlins," "The Karate Kid," "Romancing the Stone," "Sixteen Candles," "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock," and "The Terminator." On the small screen, there was "Miami Vice," "Family Ties," "The A-Team," "Magnum P.I.," "Cheers," "Night

Court," and a ton of other shows whose theme song I could probably still hum. I watched WAY too much TV as a kid.

While there are a ton of things I look back on with rose-colored glasses, it wasn't all rainbow and unicorns. Scientists identified HIV as the cause of AIDS, but the epidemic was still rampant; Indira Ghandi and Marvin Gaye were killed; the "Beauty

Queen Killer" terrified the country for weeks; and Bernhard Goetz made headlines as a subway vigilante. It doesn't matter how fondly you look back. Things are never as wonderful as they seem.

A lot of things from 1984 hold up. There's also a lot of things that don't. But it's important to remember both the classic and the outdated; the good and

the bad. What you experience shapes who you are as a person. And if you can take some of the joy you found and kept and share it others, the world will be a better place.

So whenever your "1984" is, I hope you hold onto it fondly and take the time to share some of the things you love.



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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

For those of you who have followed the Township's Facebook postings regarding trash collection in late May and

Trash Collection Delays Kept To Minimum Amid Worker Shortage

June, you're probably tired of hearing about garbage every six to 12 hours! I'm fairly certain these posts from the past six weeks outnumber my own personal use of social media since the creation of Facebook.

Although the Township has taken some aggressive legal steps to ensure that South Jersey Sanitation/Seaside Waste performs as the contract states, Pennsauken's Department of Public Works operates with the reality that this situa-

tion will continue until we arrive at a permanent solution, which could be as simple as this contractor dedicating the appropriate amount of labor to the towns that it is contracted with. As I sit to write this article in mid-June, I read that surrounding communities like Cherry Hill, which has mostly automated collection, is experiencing delays as well. Burlington County's county-wide collection program has recycling in towns like Moorestown, Maple Shade and Cinnaminson sitting curbside for an entire week!

With the Department of Public Works involvement, we have kept delays under two days. There are a few exceptions to this statement due to accessibility issues such as Centre St.'s roadwork and alleyways due to parking. As the weeks have progressed and this department becomes intimately aware of timing in these locations, we will step in earlier to avoid delays.

This ongoing challenge has been a balancing act to say the least, but the amount of appreciation we have received from our fellow residents has been awesome. In the winter articles, I've mentioned what it's like for our guys to go home at 2:00 a.m. after plowing for 12 hours, only to find their driveway has been "plowed in." During these past few weeks, there have been Department of Public Works employees who collected garbage for hours only to find that their street wasn't reached on schedule. We are all personally invested in filling the service gap and will continue our efforts to keep the impact to a minimum.

About Summer Storms

I've noticed that these violent storms seem to occur more regularly and there is a need to help Pennsauken residents understand how our Department of Public Works is allowed to assist in clean-up efforts during and following a storm. In any event, if your property (house/car/shed/etc.) sustains damage as a result of a storm uprooting a tree, you should contact your homeowner's insurance company and file a claim, regardless of

whose property the tree is on. During each major storm, we provide an unfortunate education to residents who believe that the property owner of a downed tree is responsible for its clean-up and repair. This includes trees from public spaces too.

If you only had a branch or two fall during a storm, we ask that residents utilize the normal yard debris collection on Wednesdays. This helps our staff focus on the large debris piles and lets South Jersey Sanitation/Seaside Waste handle some of the work during their contractual obligations.

A majority of cases with minor storm debris will leave downed trees/branches that do not cause damage to properties but leave behind a significant amount of tree/brush debris that the average homeowner cannot "bundle and tie" per our Wednesday yard debris collection guidelines. In these instances, homeowners performing this cleanup within a couple days of the storm can drag the debris to the curb and contact our Public Works office to be placed on the storm clean-up list. Depending on the severity and quantity of these calls, we will use the following days and/or weeks to collect from the street. In this case, it's a service we do not perform daily and allocate manpower to the greater need. Thank goodness these storms only come a few times a year!

These storms often remind homeowners to perform some tree work that they have been delaying. You may recall several annual notices I've written about in previous articles that provide warning for tree contractors that solicit your homes door-to-door and offer work for "cash." This is a "buyer beware" situation as some known amateurs have unmarked trucks with questionable employees.

On behalf of our entire Department, we wish you a safe and enjoyable Independence Day. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to our office at (856) 663-0178 or email public-works@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.



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Benefiting The Community Through Scholarships, Service

As we move into our 78th year of service to the Pennsauken community, the Pennsauken Lions Club continues to dedicate itself by supporting many individuals and organizations in helping to shape the lives of so many families and causes.

Through our ongoing efforts, we continue to support programs related to:

VISION – Preventing avoidable blindness in millions of people through our Sight First Program.

YOUTH – Creating social and emotional learning programs for students taught by specially trained educators through the Lions Quest program, our continued support for the Lions' Leo program at Pennsauken High School and recognizing student accomplishments at the Howard M. Phifer Middle School.

DISASTER RELIEF – Providing immediate and long-term needs after natural disasters.

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS – Helping millions of people, of all ages and abilities.

Last month, the Pennsauken Lions Club supported three Leo students at Pennsauken High School with two scholarships, as well as the Lois V. Rossi Memorial award for their academic accomplishments. In addition, one student at the Howard M. Phifer received our citizenship award for their academic accomplishments during this past year.

Also in June, the Pennsauken Lions conducted their second community activity at the Circle of Hope church by packaging food boxes to help 30 food insecure and needy families of the community.

As a Lion, you not only become just a member, but part of a network of organizations, businesses and community volunteers committed to making a difference for the betterment of our community.

The Pennsauken Lions continues to work and make this difference every day for our community. Now that certain restrictions have been eased some and many of our Lions have been fully vaccinated, the Lions will hold their first in-person meeting of the year on Monday, July 12, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Macaro's Deli & Catering, 6225 Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken.

If you would like more information about the Lions, our meetings, to receive a link to join one of our meetings, learn how you can become a member, or donate to our vision efforts, contact us at Facebook.com/pennsaukenlions or directly via email at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

National Night Out In Pennsauken Held On August 3

Pennsauken's first responders are holding a special event during National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 3, an annual community-building campaign that is designed to make neighborhoods a safer, better place to live.

Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave., Pennsauken's police, fire department, and EMS are joining forces to present a variety of displays and activities, specialized unit demonstrations, and more.

"As we continue to get back to normal, it's more important than ever for first responders to be an active part of the community," said Acting Chief Phil Olivo of the Pennsauken Police Department. "We hope that Pennsauken comes out for this great event."

According to the National Night Out website, NATW.org, "Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS


across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas celebrates on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more."



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Young Resident Spearheads Clean-Up Of Wesley Gaines Park



Victoria Lawrence from the Morrisville section of Pennsauken organized a community clean-up of Wesley Gaines Park on Forrest and Velde avenues.

Whenever she would visit the Wesley Gaines Park in the Morrisville area of Pennsauken, Victoria Lawrence would mention the trash scattered throughout the park. She was very adamant about taking care of the environment and improving the appearance of her neighborhood park with a community clean-up.

After contacting Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation Department, her family and community started organizing their initiative. With the support of their teachers from Delair Elementary, Victoria and her brother, Brian, invited their virtual classmates. They also distributed flyers to some local residents. With the assistance of Cindy Samuels-Bundy, the park clean-up was posted on the Morrisville Facebook page.

The Pennsauken Department of Public Works provided gloves, bags, buckets, and grabbers for the clean-up. On May 22, neighbors, classmates, and family came together to gather branches,

leaves, glass, and trash. The kids were really inspired to participate in the cleanup and the adults followed suit with hard work. Despite the task of cleaning up, the kids had fun, enjoyed snacks, and the community park looked great.

The collaboration of everyone's effort was remarkable based on the ambition of an eight-year-old who saw an opportunity to improve her neighborhood. It is Victoria's hope that the outcome of this event will inspire other residents to take pride

in their neighborhoods and take initiative wherever there is an opportunity.

To learn how to have a community clean-up of a park in your part of town, contact Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation Department at (856) 665-1000 x151.

Peak Secondhand Opens Its Doors In Merchantville



Carolyn Busa, owner of Peak Secondhand in Merchantville, offers fun and vibrant clothing at low prices.

Peak Secondhand opened its doors for the first time, June 5, welcoming a collection of vibrant, colorful clothes celebrating body and budget positivity to 105 S. Centre St.

Peak Secondhand is a clothing store whose mission is to show customers their best self through their unique inventory, fun atmosphere, and low prices. Peak encourages shoppers to either continue embracing their unique style or discover a fun, new one. "The clothes may be worn but they haven't peaked until they've met you," said Carolyn Busa, owner of the store.

Busa recently moved back to the South Jersey area after spending the last nearly eight years living in Brooklyn, NY and working as a stand-up comedian. She's spent the last few years honing a routine about the concept of "peaking."

"To 'peak,' is to love yourself, love your body and love showing that off to the world," explained Busa. "Basically, self-appreciation punchlines instead of

self-deprecating."

While not the stage, Peak Secondhand is Carolyn's new way of performing for her community.

"Peak will be a very welcoming atmosphere. I want customers to spend as long as they like browsing clothes, enjoying the music, or hopefully chatting it up with me. I loved comedy because by sharing my own stories and insecurities, it made people feel safe sharing theirs. I want to bring that same energy to the store. And make you look good too."

Peak Secondhand is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A percentage of the store's proceeds will go to a rotating organization or charity. For more details, visit them on social media at Facebook.com/peaksecondhand.

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Pennsauken High School Seniors Receive Well-Deserved Awards

45th Street Pub Award

Cassandra Gordon

Administrators' Association of Pennsauken Award

Davis Nguyen
Christopher Weaver

Advanced Spanish Award

Vy Le

American Legion of Camden County Award

Aniya Lynch
Duy Nguyen

Andrew F. Kelly Memorial Award

Bryan Jimenez

Andy Andreola Award

Natalina Nunez

Apache Band Booster Award

Shya Roach
Arissa Fleming

Apache Band Booster Association Cramer Award

Daniel Nguyen

Apache Band Booster Association Matt Henkel Award

Ismael Mendez
Luis Vicente

Apache Band Booster Association Reitz Family Award

Cassandra Gordon
Xavier Thompson

Apache Band Booster Association Rendle Willgoos Award

Abigail Moore

Carson Elementary School Award

Keturah Jones
Andy Lam

Corporal Frederick William Grigg Memorial Award

Talia Torres
Joshua Nsubuga

Delia Ford Brown Textbook Scholarship

Ciara Carver-Scotton

Democratic Club of Pennsauken Thomas Soto Memorial Award

Genan Farhat

Double Dozen Parents Association Award

Tatiana Gonzales
Jazcanya Gonzalez
Aigner Settles

Dr. James Chapman Education Award

Abigail Moore
Pricila Sanchez-Rojas

Elementary Retired Teachers Award

Alysia Murray
Eliana Pitts
Eion Roman
Jordan Thach

Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club of Mer- chantville Mary Klimek Memorial Scholarship

Alexa Ruberte

Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club of Merchantville Sandy DeSimone Memorial Scholarship

Jhocelin Morquecho

Francis Orsini Marching Band Scholarship

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Cassandra Gordon
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George E. Norcross III Scholarship

Alexa Ruberte

Griffith Morgan Committee Social Studies Award

Abigail Moore
Austin Dahl

James David Hutton Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Nsubuga

Jane B. Wellenbeck Continuing Education Scholarship

Cassandra Gordon

Jeanne Thompson Memorial Award

Athan Papaioannou

Joe Cataldo Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Moore

John L. Harbison Award

Vy Le

John W. Partridge Spirit Award

Aniya Lynch

Kurt R. Klaus Soccer Scholarship

Zoey Hunter
Keturah Jones
Carlo Azcona
Ian Pierre-Louis
Eion Roman

Mark A. Lilley Memorial Scholarship

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MPWC Walter V. Kurkian Memorial Award

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Pennsauken High School Alumni Association Award

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Austin Dahl
Abbiel Davis
Jessica Lu
Joshua Melilli

Athan Papaioannou
Jillian Rivera
Jennifer Yiu

Pennsauken High School Class of 1988 Reunion/Alumni Committee Award

Jasmine Pope
Kevin Nguyen

Pennsauken High School Leo Club Award

Jonathan Lamothe
Athan Papaioannou

Pennsauken High School PTA Award

Genan Farhat
Arissa Fleming
Zoey Hunter
Mulunesh Kramer

Pennsauken Historical Society Social Studies Award

Myana Miller
Christian Burkhart

Pennsauken Lions Club Lois V. Rossi Memorial Award

Aniya Lynch

Pennsauken Stages Award

Jenairy Gonzalez
Christian Burkhart

Phi Beta Kappa Book Award

Vy Le

Raymond F. Wiggins Jazz Scholarship

Cassandra Gordon
Xavier Thompson

continued on page 12



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By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Diane Johnson; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; and Orlando Viera

To the Pennsauken High School graduating class of 2021: the Board of Education wishes you luck in all your future endeavors and congratulates you on your great success. We are extremely proud of all of you as you completed this part of your learning journey here in Pennsauken.

The 2020-2021 school year was a chal-

Farewell To The PHS Class Of 2021

lenging one. We are proud of your diligence to keep up with your studies; despite the setbacks, you completed this school year! All of you deserve to be celebrated for your accomplishments.

Your time in the Pennsauken School District has ended and you're preparing for your next journey. Remember, learning is a lifelong process. Be intentional in your future and your personal growth. Work on yourself as well as your future career. Whether you're furthering your education in college, beginning your career in a technical field, or going into the military, always allow yourself to grow by learning, listening, and asking questions.

We are proud to share in the excitement of your graduation. Thank you for spending your elementary, middle, and high school years here in the Pennsauken School District.

When Dr. Tarchichi began his career here in Pennsauken in 2016, one of his main goals was to create articulation

agreements with local colleges, so Pennsauken students could earn college credits before graduating high school. Many of our students took advantage of this opportunity and we are very proud of those students! Dr. T was also successful at building CTE options in our high school; students are graduating PHS equipped to begin a career in a trades field of their choice. All that has been built here in the Pennsauken School District is a result of being committed to an idea, working hard, and showing dedication.

Congratulations Pennsauken High School Class of 2021! You will be missed.

Recognizing Autism Awareness Month



During Autism Awareness Month, teachers at Phifer educated students about autism, raising awareness, and showing support for those with the developmental disability.

Pennsauken High School Seniors Receive Well-Deserved Awards

continued from page 11

Retired Teachers of Pennsauken High School Award

Abigail Moore
Pricila Sanchez-Rojas

Rick Taylor Award

Sulley Marie Sanchez

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Career-Technical Education Award

Chase Lassiter

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Health and Physical Education Award

Jade Pope

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Language Arts/World Language Award

Austin Dahl

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Mathematics Award

Bryan Jimenez

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Science Award

Joshua Nsubuga

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Social Studies Award

Shya Roach

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Special Education Award

Jada Reese

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Visual/Performing Arts Award

Jenairy Gonzalez

Robert "Ike" Willis Memorial Scholarship Female Athlete Award

Vy Le

Robert "Ike" Willis Memorial Scholarship Male Athlete Award

Jonathan Lamothe

Robert R. Nicholson Award

Keturah Jones

Seth Weinstein Award

Abigail Moore

Woman's Club of Merchantville Community and Citizenship Award

Jenairy Gonzalez

Woman's Club of Merchantville Creative Arts Award

Anthony Orzechowski

Woman's Club of Merchantville Education Department Award

Cassandra Gordon

Woman's Club of Merchantville Literature Award

Ciara Carver-Scotton

ZB Foundation Award

Jazcena Gonzalez

Property Alliance Holding School Supplies Drive For Baldwin

The Property Alliance, located at 4114 W. Maple Ave., in Pennsauken, is holding its third-annual school supplies drive benefiting Baldwin Early Childhood Learning Center.

Now through Sept. 1, individuals can donate gently used or unused school supplies. The donation wishlist includes backpacks, crayons, folders, glue, scissors, colored pencils, markers, construction paper, rulers, erasers, basic calculators, and craft supplies.

To donate, call (856) 888-1133 or email sara@thepropertyalliance.com.

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor
nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd², M.S., M.B.S., M.A.², Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools

We made it! What a year this was! We got through an awful pandemic and our students benefited in a time of turmoil. Some of our secondary students finished high school with perfect grades, vocational certifications, college credit, and full scholarships to universities. Our middle school students moving on from Phifer are very well prepared for high school and were able to pick the academic and vocational program of their choice. Our primary students continued on grade level as our teachers ensured they stayed on the pacing guide of their

curriculum. Both remote and hybrid learners are ready for their next grade level.

Any student that struggled during the school year academically has been invited to our summer remediation program to ensure their readiness for the next grade level for the 2021-22 school year. Having difficulty this year was nothing to be ashamed of; this was a difficult year for everyone. The remediation is essential for students to keep them on par with their grade level peers. For our primary and secondary students that simply wished to learn more this summer, we offered our traditional summer enrichment, where our students were able to prepare for their next grade

level's academic content while taking art, music, and physical education.

For our secondary students, we have a few options. Like every summer, we have a trade camp for our middle school students interested in vocational education. Our families interested in Career and Technical Education (CTE) options for students during the school year can choose from many vocational options which include Automotive, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical Construction, Welding, Criminal Justice, Air Force JROTC, HVACR, EMT and Fire Safety, and Health Occupations. Our trade camp gives our students a taste of the program they would be most interested in pursuing during their high school career. Additionally, if our secondary students wish to take more courses to en-

hance their learning, we have approved online courses for students to take in order to advance their secondary content knowledge and expedite their graduation requirements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, secretaries, food service workers, teacher assistants, non-teaching assistants, custodians, maintenance workers, and every other staff member that went on this journey with us. The Board of Education and I ensured Pennsauken Public Schools offered more in-person instruction than any other school in the county. We could not have done it without our employees, parents, students, and community and we appreciate you.

As we prepare for next year, we made

sure to open Burling as an elementary school for one year only. In case there is an uptick in the virus, we would be more prepared with smaller class sizes. This is especially important for our K-5 student population. Our goal is to keep our class sizes at 18 or under throughout the district in order to facilitate distancing.

We will continue doing our best for students to ensure learning opportunities and educational experiences in and out of the classroom, despite what is going on in the world. Please begin to check out our upcoming sports and extracurricular activities schedules on our website for the 2021-22 school year and let's get together as a community to support our children and show friendship to one another. I look forward to seeing all of you this upcoming school year.

Orientation At Pennsauken Intermediate



Mrs. Harmon and Mr. Lewis welcoming incoming fourth graders to the Intermediate School!

Third grade students from Delair, Fine, and Franklin elementary schools had the opportunity to visit the Pennsauken Intermediate School for an orientation at their future school.

Students were very excited to meet some of the Intermediate staff and to get a tour of the beautiful, air-conditioned building. Special thanks to Mrs. Gaffney, fourth grade guidance counselor, for helping to organize this event!

Mrs. Zimolong cheered the third graders, while Mr. Kauffman and Mr. Millstein serenaded them with some music as they paraded through the hallways for the tour of the building. In addition to teaching general music, Mr. Millstein is the band teacher and Mr. Kauffman teaches chorus. All incoming fourth grade students who are interested in playing instruments or participating in a chorus ensemble will have

Remote Kindergarteners Take Reading To "EPIC" Heights

What began as a way to give remote kindergarten students exposure to books has created a true love for reading.

In December 2020, Mrs. DiCupe, a remote kindergarten teacher whose class is composed of students from Fine, Franklin, and Carson, was looking for a way to motivate students to participate in the weekly reading log. She also wanted to give the students an opportunity to choose books to read for themselves, something their in-school friends were able to do during their weekly library time.

The students were excited for the opportunity to read books that they were able to choose. Participation started out slow, but once Mrs. DiCupe had announced that the class had read 200 books collectively in late February, the

children were motivated to read more. As of May 26, the students read a total of 800 books!

When asked why they liked EPIC Books so much, the students' love of reading comes through loud and clear.

Eric Venables, a Fine kindergarten student said, "I like EPIC because I have so many books to choose from and I love to read."

Charlotte Wurtenburg, a Franklin Kindergarten student stated, "I love the books on EPIC because they are on my reading level and there are so many different kinds of books to choose from."

Even the parents love the site! Mrs. Smith, a Fine School parent said, "EPIC has many different types of books that make it helpful for the children to choose one and never get bored."

Spend Time With The Super

Please join me for "Coffee and Questions with the Superintendent," taking place at 5:30 p.m., before every board meeting at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd. These are times where concerned parents or Pennsauken residents can come and ask questions regarding any topic within the district. Also, I would like to offer a campus tour to any family that wishes to see any of our high school facilities or programs.

Mural Welcomes Carson School Families



Painted by art teacher Christina Daly, a bright new mural welcomes students and families at Carson.

A bright new mural welcomes students and families at Carson school!

Started in fall 2019, before the pandemic began, this mural was planned for the recently added vestibule and new entrance at the school. The blank interior wall was the perfect opportunity to create a work of art that would welcome anyone entering the building. It sends a message with the themes that are integral to Carson Elementary: education, friendship, kindness, inclusion, and happiness.

Finally, after resuming painting, Mrs. Christina Daly, Carson's art teacher, completed the mural this spring!

Kids Heart Challenge At Franklin

Student Skylar Noel raised \$1,096.16, raising Ben Franklin School's total to \$2,054.83 for the Kids Heart Challenge, formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart. Donations were given to the American Heart Association.

Skylar was fully remote this year and has made this her mission for the past two years to raise awareness for heart disease. We are so proud of Skylar here at Ben Franklin School!

Franklin student Skylar Noel raised over \$1,000 for the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge.



Gold Wing Wins Kickball Tourney



The team from the gold wing won the kickball tournament during Phifer's "Battle of the Wings."



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WITH CURRENT CDL CLASS B & REQUIRED P/S Endorsements:

- Must Pass Drug Test
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For More Information call 856-662-8502

Congratulations To Pennsauken High School's Graduating Class Of 2021!

Jonathan Abanyie	Carla Figueroa	Natalie Koh	*†Joshua Nsubuga	Joshua Ruiz
Layla Abdullah-Martinez	Carmen Figueroa	Mulunesh Kramer	*Natalina Nunez	Eric Saenz
Robin Acevedo Bello	Isaiah Figueroa	Tameen Lacy	Sheila Ortega	Ricky Salas
Eduardo Aguilar Martinez	†Arisa Fleming	Andy Lam	Anthony Orzechowski	Dominick Sanchez
Noah Albrecht	Eliesbel Fortis	*†Jonathan Lamothe	Owen Orzechowski	*†Sulley Marie Sanchez
Ellis Allen	Alesha Freeman	Chase Lassiter	Joshua Pagan	*†Pricila Sanchez Rojas
Endy Alvarez	Michael Furtado	Billy Le	Josue Palacios Zarate	Yulissa Santana
Ashanti Anderson	Madison Garber	*†Vy Le	Erick Pantoja	Joseph Santiago
Matthew Applegate	Michelle Garcia	Jose Leon	†Athan Papaioannou	Alex Scott
Joanny Arias	*†Jim Gazi	Jon'Nay Lloyd	Tiniya Pate	Joeleanna Serrano
†Heavyn-Lee Armstead	Mariah Gbaluo	Avi Lopez	Pedro Perez	*†Aigner Settles
Maliyah Ayala	Kadejah George	Mario Lora	Scarlet Perez-Peralta	Beatriz Simioni
Carlo Azcona	Alexa Georges-Reyes	Damion Louie-Carter	Briasia Perry	Jessica Simpson
Diancarlos Azcona	Brandon Gillis	Donnovan Lucas	Dior Peterson	Emmanuel Soriano
Keeshon Batts	Alissa Gismonde	Leslie Luna	Whitney Phan	Derick Suarez
Kayla Bazulis	†Tatiana Gonzales	Maurice Lusby	Phillips Pho	Cole Summerville
Michael Bazulis	*†Jazcanya Gonzalez	Jessica Luu	Jeremy Pichardo	Anik Sutradhar
Ashley Berrios	Jazmin Gonzalez	Ba Ly	Dennise Piedra	†Jordan Thach
Raymond Boozer	Jenairy Gonzalez	Da Ru Th Ly	Ian Pierre-Louis	Kyla Thomas
Julio Borrero	Miyelis Gonzalez	*†Aniya Lynch	Eliana Pitts	Seth Thomas
Janai Bowers	Natalys Gonzalez	Reese Mabolis	Zaire Pitts	Keshaun Thompson
Miguel Brown	Ashanti Gordian	Teddy Mao	Jade Pope	Xavier Thompson
Sekhi Brown	†Casandra Gordon	Marcus Marciano	Jasmine Pope	Talia Torres
Christian Burkhart	Vincent Gray	Wendy Marcos Benito	Daniela Porras	Juleiddy Torres Reynoso
Starlyn Caba	Kiara Green	Briana Martinez	Deonte Porter	Zaisha Torres Rodriguez
Brianna Caba Ramos	Charlie Gross	Linoska Martinez-Castillo	Tah'cere Purnell	Jeylie Torres-Rivera
Javon Cajigas Leary	Roselyne Grullon	Enrique Massa	Ana Quezada	Kevin Tran
Kristopher Canlas	Ralph Guzman Compres	Kiara Massa	Yriana Quinones	*†Lynn Tran
Ciara Carver-Scotton	ZaNiya Hall-Kirk	Satta Massaquoi	Karla Ramos	Kole Truitt
Leishmillie Cedeno Rodriquez	†Frank Harrington	Chynna Matthews	Noemi Reynoso Concepcion	Maya Truitt
Nina Chhoeung	Anderson Heng	Jordan Mayhue	Saul Richardson	†Ayanna Tucker
Tyanna Chism	Flavianny Henriquez	Aaron McCubbin	Alyssa Rios	Dajah Tunnell
Richard Coffield	Abraham Hernandez	†Joshua Melilli	John Rios	Iyanna Turner
Moises Concepcion	Ameerah Hernandez	Ismael Mendez	Thomas Rispo	Zachary Tuvell
*†Cameron Connolly	Mario Hernandez Dominguez	Angie Mendoza-Escobar	Ethine Rivera	Imani Tyler
Ariana Cruz	Abraham Herrera	Jasmine Miah	Hector Rivera	Joshua Valerio
Yasmin Cruz	Angelo Herrera	Myana Miller	*†Jillian Rivera	Brandon Valerio Valdez
Eliel Cuesta	Sean Hill	Erik Minaya	Michael Rivera	Melvin Vargas
Austin Dahl	Hung Hoang	Gabriel Mojica	Miguel Rivera	Carmen Vargas Perez
*†Abbiel Davis	Josiah Hudson	Quetzalli Montalvo-Cruz	Simanni Rivera	Sebastian Velasquez
Emanuel Davis	Zoey Hunter	*†Abigail Moore	Crispin Rivera Hernandez	Jesus Ventura
Sean Davis	Steven Huynh	Jhocelin Morquecho	Shya Roach	Luis Vicente
Nathan DePietropolo	Vicky Huynh	Owen Muller	Felicity Roberts-Sloan El	†Chau Vu
Jason DeShazor	†Melisa Ibarra-Zavala	Fatima Munir	Eurdine Robinson	Aaron Ware
Joselyn Diaz	†Kai Ibarro	Alysia Murray	Jay-Lynn Robinson	Christopher Weaver
Mayah Dickens	Noor Iman	Taliah Napier	Angel Rodriguez	Aaron Williams
Qwa'Zhere Edwards	Jordan Jackson	Ginellie Nevarez	Daniel Rodriguez	Kimmar Williams
Princess Ellis	Kiaer Jacobs	Daniel Nguyen	Emely Rodriguez	Kya Williams
Yendry Emiliano-Aracena	Miguel Jaquez Nunez	*†Davis Nguyen	Giancarlo Rodriguez	Tyke Wilson
Jose Espinal	Isaiah Jasper	*†Duy Nguyen	Tiana Rodriguez	Jennifer Yiu
Gladis Estrada	Dominic Jenkins	Kevin Nguyen	Eion Roman	Christian Young
Steeven Fana	†Bryan Jimenez	Kevin Nguyen	Javonce Roman	Marissa Zaccagni
Yalda Faqiri	George Johnson	Melissa Nguyen	Mariah Romero	Ramon Zapata Torres
*†Genan Farhat	*Keturah Jones	Tien Nguyen	Eliberth Rosado	
Damir Farmer	†Shayla Jordan	†Vicky Nguyen	Naun Rosario Dominquez	*Top 20 in Class
Katherine Fernandez	Nahum Juarez	†Vinny Nguyen	*†Alexa Ruberte	†National Honor Society
Ahliya Fields	Adrian Kim	Vivian Nguyen	Damian Ruediger	

SENIORCORNER Nutrition Vouchers Available For Camden County Seniors

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors. The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods (fruits, vegetables, honey, and

fresh-cut herbs) at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

Program participants must be 60 years of age or older, meet income guidelines, and live in Camden County. Eligible seniors will receive five \$6

vouchers for a total of \$30. Vouchers are \$30 per person; two seniors in a household each get five vouchers.

Vouchers must be used at authorized farmers' markets and are only good for locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs. They can not be used to purchase

citrus, tropical fruit, or baked/processed goods.

The following are some local farmers' markets where these vouchers can be used:

- Collingswood Farmers' Market, 713 N. Atlantic Ave., Collingswood, N.J.; Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to noon
- Haddonfield Farmers' Market, Corner of Carpenter and Green streets, Had-

donfield, N.J.; Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Springdale Farms, 1638 S. Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, N.J.; everyday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For questions or more information, call (856) 858-3220.

Wishing you health and happiness. Thank goodness that we're coming to the end of the pandemic.

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

As summer continues, we should be aware of how summer heat can be harmful to seniors. Excessive hot and humid weather can be extremely tough on older people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during the period of 2004 to 2018, the percentage of heat-related deaths in Americans 65 years or older was the highest among all age groups. There are several reasons why. Sweating is the most important way that the body cools itself. But as people grow older, their ability to sweat decreases. Seniors also tend to not drink as much water, as they don't get as thirsty. In addition, medications like antihistamines, heart and blood pressure medications, and certain tranquilizers can interfere with sweating. It's important

How To Prevent Heat-Related Illnesses In Seniors

that seniors speak with their physicians to learn how the medications they take can potentially affect their ability to lower their body temperatures.

There are two major types of heat-related illnesses that seniors should be aware of: heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion occurs when a person cannot sweat enough to cool the body. This generally occurs when working or exercising in hot weather. Symptoms include fatigue, weakness, headache, dizziness, or nausea, along with cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin. Mild cases of heat exhaustion can be treated at home, but if left untreated can lead to heat stroke.

Heat stroke is when the body can't regulate its own temperature and continues to rise, often to more than 105 de-

grees. Other symptoms include severe headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, unconsciousness, along with red, hot, and dry skin. Heat stroke can occur with or without exertion in a hot environment.

To protect your health during hot weather, remember to keep cool and use common sense. The following tips can help prevent heat illness:

- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages, such as water or a sports drink
- Eat light, but well balanced meals
- Wear appropriate clothing (lightweight, light colored and loose fitting) and use sunscreen
- Pace yourself
- Stay cool indoors and find air conditioned places to spend time
- Take cold showers and baths

- Schedule outdoor activities carefully – the sun shines heaviest between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Use the buddy system when spending time in the heat

Sources for this article include the CDC, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Health.com, and CNN.com.

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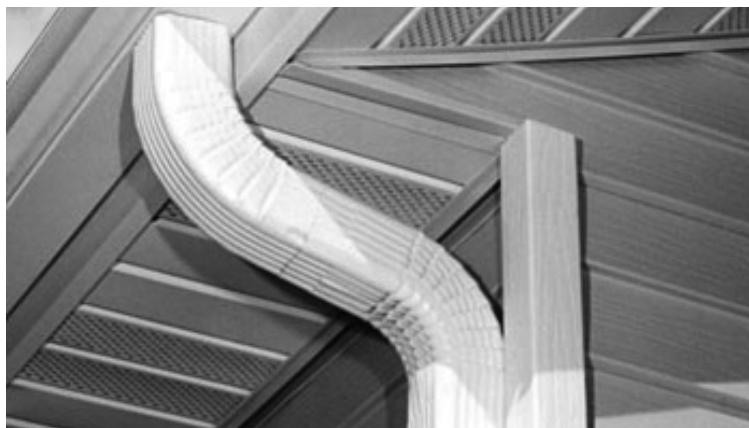
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Improper Connections Cause Property Damage

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet

Please do not flush baby wipes, "flushable" wipes, disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and supposedly "flushable" wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist residents. We have

enacted a "No Public Contact" policy for the protection of our neighbors and our employees but we will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance call (856) 662-0686.



If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



GRAYMATTERS Summertime And My Love Affair With The Jersey Tomato

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

Well, this is a month I never particularly liked and it's all because it's that hot and humid stuff that just doesn't sit well on my Viking helmet.

July's only redeeming quality as I see it, is that it's the season when Jersey tomatoes are coming into their own. And, other than Aunt Charlotte's candies, nothing satisfies me more than a good old tomato, mayo, salt, and pepper sandwich.

Without a doubt, they are the best tomatoes on the planet. They don't call us the Garden State for nothin'.

Actually, every month and every season brings into my life something I love, whether it's places I love to visit, a concert I get to see, a special holiday or birthday, or just any day to spend with people I truly love – great grandbabies in particular. Then there's certain fruits and veggies in season – there's a nudge to those tomatoes once again. You know, it

seems to me, overall, I'm a glass half-full kinda gal all the time, but... I guess those tomatoes connect me to far more than just the taste.

I do believe the first time I ever ate one was on a trip down to Townsend's Inlet with my mother to visit my Aunt Anna and Uncle John Turner. And that was my introduction to the Jersey tomato sandwich. I was probably four or five and Uncle John was out fishing for our dinner, when Aunt Anna brought in

some tomatoes. I recall Mom reminded her of all those good tomato sandwiches they would eat in the summer as kids. Aunt Anna or her sister, my grandmother, would bake homemade bread, and it was always ready in time for lunch, cooled, down, sliced, and ready to eat. All of my family had a green thumb when it came to gardening, so I was always used to lots of good veggies growing up as a child. And in those days, when my mom was young, homemade bread was a very

inexpensive thing to make, as was homemade mayonnaise; and as far as the garden grown tomatoes, my grandmother would always say they were so good because, "God really did all the work." She just watered them when they needed it.

And so, I came by my love of tomato sandwiches honestly. I don't make my own bread as often as I used to and I think the last time I made homemade mayonnaise, which is very simple to do, was probably back in 1973. But after taking that trek down memory lane, I'm thinking sometime in late July, I'll put on my, "toque blanche," French for that

white hat worn by chefs, bake a loaf of fresh bread, take another 10 minutes to make some mayonnaise, pick out the best two or three tomatoes from the vine for my sandwich extraordinaire, and then reminisce of those days gone by that are actually, in their own way, still here.

Sometimes it just works out that way. I love it when that happens.

I promise I'll share some of that amazing goodness with friends. You know who you are!

Peace, love, and Jersey tomatoes.

Your friend,

~ Judy

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Meet Our Dedicated Staff

Thomas P. Hickey NJ License No. 5321

Thomas joined our family at Falco/Caruso & Leonard as an attendant in December of 2018 while he attended mortuary school at Mercer County Community College. In March of 2019 Thomas became our registered intern under the preceptorship of Andrea Meyers. After graduating from the funeral service program at Mercer County Community College, Thomas was awarded with his Certificate of Proficiency in Funeral Service. In May of 2021, Thomas was licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science by the State Board of Mortuary Science of NJ and now serves

as a licensed funeral director with us.

Prior to attending mortuary school Thomas earned both his associate and bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in Psychology from Burlington County College in 2013 and Rider University in 2015, respectively.

Thomas was born in Willingboro to Bonnie L. Hickey (née Gerth) and Michael J. Hickey; he has a twin brother, Matthew R. Hickey, and an older brother Michael C. Hickey. Thomas grew up in Medford Lakes where he attended Nokomis and Neeta Schools and actively participated in community activities such as the Medford Lakes Colony Camp and the Canoe Carnival (with membership in one of the float-groups, The Unlikelys for several years). In 2011, Thomas graduated from Shawnee High School in Medford.

Since August of 2019, Thomas has lived in the residence above our funeral home in the Cramer Hill neighborhood of Camden; he has two beloved cats, Katyusha and Mr. Littleman.



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NJ License No. 3216, PA License No. FD-013656-E

Stanley McGraw IV
Funeral Director
NJ License No. 4628

Ashley Rose Caruso-Condon
Funeral Director
NJ License No. 4948

Andrea Peirce Meyers
Funeral Director
NJ License No. 4540

Angela M McGraw
Funeral Director
NJ License No. 5231



MPWC WATERLINES

Attention Customers: Payment Arrangements Are Available!

If you are experiencing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss payment options. The MPWC will work with you to ensure that your service is not interrupted.

With the voluntary moratorium on

utility service terminations expiring, the MPWC is encouraging customers to contact us as soon as possible to make payment arrangements. Our staff will work with you to reach a comfortable repayment plan.

Our Customer Support Center is

available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to assist you with your repayment options by phone at (856) 663-0043 or visit us in person at our Westfield Ave. office. Be reminded that the lobby closes at 3:00 p.m. each day.

“The Tap Always Delivers!”

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission's water tastes great and our compliance with state and federal drinking water standards remains exemplary year after year. So how does our water compare with bottled water? Some people believe bottled water is safer than the community water supply, but that just

isn't true. In the vast majority of cases, both bottled water and tap water are safe, healthy choices. Plus, tap water costs a lot less than bottled water; and with no plastic bottles to create litter, nothing ends up in a landfill. It is also important to remember that only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection,

and supports the economy and the overall quality of life we all enjoy. It's always a good time to think about the importance of the critical systems that keep our tap water service strong and reliable. Help the MPWC spread the word: “The Tap Always Delivers!”

MPWC Annual Consumer Confidence Report



We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with or exceeded all state and federal drinking

water requirements.

Our annual Consumer Confidence Report has been completed. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2020. We are proud to inform you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. We remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

The MPWC will no longer mail individual copies of the Consumer Confidence Report to customers, as it is available electronically on our website, by following the link on your water bill, or

by visiting gemgrp.com/ereports/MPWC2020CCR.pdf

Printed copies are available in our office lobby. If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Support Center during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

Did You Know...



All main shut off valves and interior plumbing within the property are the customer's responsibility to maintain and repair.



Moving?



For new tenants and homeowners

Please provide us with your lease agreement or Closing Disclosure/Settlement Statement to establish your account.

If you're moving out...

Please call our office at (856) 663-0043 to schedule a final reading to be done prior to your moving date or settlement. We need your forwarding address or your title company's contact information to know where to send the final bill.

High water bill?

The toilet's flapper may be the culprit to cause an “invisible leak”.



A toilet is made to fill up as soon as the water in the tank dips low. If the flapper doesn't keep the water in the tank, water is flowing through the meter to increase your bill.

Meetings of the
Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission
are currently being held via phone conference.
For more information, visit our website, MPWC.com

WATER EMERGENCY?
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6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ 08110, 856-663-0043 www.mpwc.com

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Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer ■ Mr. Shakir Ali, Secretary
Mr. Frank Warwick, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

In the GARDEN Enjoying Your Hard Work In The Garden

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Hello and happy summer! The sun is shining full blast and it is getting hot! You need to be careful out in the heat, especially when working outside on your lawn and garden. Please be sure to wear sunscreen to protect your skin from the dangerous sunrays. Also, wearing a hat will help your head and face from sunburn. LOL, I wear either an oversized floppy or bucket hat to cover my ears and neck. Sunburn on the ears or neck sure hurts! OUCH! And much like your lawn and plants need plenty of water, so do you. Remember to rehydrate while you are working or enjoying

the outdoors.

By this time all your plants should be planted, and you can finish up on mulching if you did not do so already. A never-ending chore is still necessary: the dreaded garden weeding. It is best to keep up with this every few days or once a week at least, so weeds do not overrun your garden. Using a weed trimmer does wonders for around your sidewalk, fence, and garden stones. As always, now that it is hot, you should be watering your flowers and plants everyday – either in the early morning or in the evening – unless they got a good soaking from the rain.

If you planted vegetables in your gar-

den, you should be seeing the fruits of your labor. Tomatoes will be ready soon. If they start to redden, pick them from the plants and put them by your windowsill indoors to finish ripening. Better that you enjoy them than the squirrels! Peppers, sweet corn, and eggplant should also be ready sometime this month.

To add to your garden and landscap-

ing charm, you could add some solar lights or statues. There are plenty to choose from and they make your gardens look more special in the day and nighttime. Some solar lights can be hung from hooks or staked in the ground. They even come in different changing colors! Another idea is adding a bird bath or house. Birds do eat bugs and

they are fun to watch, especially for the kids.

Most of all, grab a cool drink with plenty of ice and sit outside on your lawn or patio and take in all the beauty of your hard work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!

Operation Helping Hand Comes To Pennsauken



Held in Pennsauken last month, Operation Helping Hand provided a variety of resources to help those struggling with substance abuse.

Local Residents Graduate From Centenary University

Two local residents were among 430 graduates who were awarded degrees during Centenary University's 146th commencement. Boris Fabre of Pennsauken earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Management; and Elizabeth Brouse of Merchantville earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion: Design and Merchandising.

Founded in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church, Centenary University's academic program integrates a solid liberal

arts foundation with a strong career orientation. This mix provides an educational experience that prepares students to succeed in the increasingly global and interdependent world. The University's main campus is located in Hackettstown, N.J., with its equestrian facility in Washington Township. The Centenary University School of Professional Studies offers degree programs in Parsippany, as well as online and at corporate sites throughout New Jersey.

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inTown Warmer Weather = Outdoor Events



Over 300 carloads of sensitive documents were safely and securely destroyed during the Pennsauken Environmental Commission's shredding event on June 12.



Kids from Pennsauken and Merchantville take a big plunge at the Municipal Pool!



Pennsauken celebrated the start of summer, Juneteenth, and Independence Day with a great fireworks display last month!



Mr. Beltran caught a monster at Tippin's Pond: a 22" snakehead! The fish was humanely disposed of.

Pennsauken Couple Celebrates Sixty-One Years Of Marriage

Jim and Selma Mowery, residents at Ivystone Senior Living in Pennsauken, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary last month and were surprised by a parade of the town's first responders!



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Pennsauken Announces Personnel Changes To Key Township Roles continued from page 1

and our residents. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve on Committee," said Killion. "It was a difficult decision to step down, but it's also an opportunity to help our town grow and evolve in a new capacity. I'm really looking forward to my new role as administrator. I appreciate the trust of Township Committee and the mayor for appointing me."

"I think Tim's going to do an incredible job as administrator," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "It was a pleasure serving with him on Committee and we all look forward to working with Tim in his new position. Together, we're going to do great things for our town."

Palumbo Assumes Role As Public Safety Director

While remaining the chief of the Pennsauken Township Fire Department, a position he has held since 2011, Joseph V. Palumbo, Sr. becomes the town's new director of public safety, coordinating with the town's first responders to develop and enact procedures and policies to protect Pennsauken's over 35,000 residents. Palumbo had previously served as acting administrator since November of 2019. A 27-year member of the Pennsauken's Fire Department, Palumbo has a bachelor's degree in public safety



Palumbo

administration from Neuman University, Aston, Pa. and is a graduate of Rutgers University's Certified Public Manager program.

"Chief Palumbo has done an incredible job, helping to move forward our town's vision. I was honored to be able to serve with Joe during his time as interim administrator and I'm as excited to work with him as our new director of public safety," said Mayor DiBattista. "During the pandemic, having Joe's expertise could not have been more valuable. I applaud the work he's done, and Committee looks forward to

collaborating together in this new capacity."

"We thank Joe for his service as interim administrator, his knowledge and expertise, and his help in accomplishing many projects, as well as resolving many issues," added Deputy Mayor Jessica Rafeh, who served as public safety director prior to Palumbo's appointment. "His performance was outstanding and we're sure he'll be outstanding in his new role. We look forward to continuing to work with him."

Olivo Appointed Acting Police Chief

A member of the Pennsauken Township Police Department since June of



Olivo

2001, Phil Olivo was appointed as acting chief, in charge of the town's 85 officers. Acting Chief Olivo has a wealth of experience in the department, including the detective, patrol, professional standards, and records divisions, as well as the bicycle and community policing units. A member of Pennsauken High School's graduating class of 1995, Olivo has an associate degree in criminal justice from Camden County College and is a graduate of the

West Point Command and Leadership program.

"The Pennsauken Police Department is vital to the success and safety of our entire community. Township Committee knows that having the right person to serve as acting chief is extremely important and we know that Acting Chief Olivo takes his responsibilities just as seriously," said Mayor DiBattista. "We will support you and stand with you and the entire police department to ensure the safety of not only our business owners, visitors, and residents, but our officers as well."

Getting A Much-Needed Lift



Pennsauken Logistics Company, LLC enlisted the use of a helicopter to place a dozen AC/Heating units, each weighing approximately two tons, at precise locations on the roof of their facility. What would have taken a crane several days was accomplished in just 30 minutes – and at a lesser cost!



Lemonade 4 Change is raising money to provide the Pennsauken Free Public Library with funding to enhance and increase its collections of books on diversity for all ages.

The Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library thanks the following local establishments for their support:



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DEATHNOTICES Longtime Resident, Township Native Remembered

Longtime Pennsauken resident Larry Painter passed away on May 29, 2021. He was 86 years old.

Larry was the beloved husband of Trudy (nee McCann); devoted father of Lisa McGilloway (Michael) and Stephen Painter (Bonnie); loving grandfather of Michael, Matthew, McCann, Daniel and Samara; dear brother of Eleanor Wilbur, Sharon Smith (Larry) and the late Ruth Smith, Florence Capri, Nancy Horner, Harvey Painter and Jane Scarano; and brother-in-law of Linda Lewis (Ken). He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Prior to his retirement, Larry worked as a senior office assistant for PSE&G, re-



Painter

tiring after over 30 years. He was a United States Army Veteran and a recipient of the Camden County Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Medal. Larry was a 2009 inductee in the Riverside High School Sports Hall of Fame, where he played basketball, baseball, and football.

Larry was a member of the Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council 3512 for 34 years where he served as Grand Knight and on many committees. He also was a member of the Bishop Eustace Assembly where he served as Trustee and was a member of the Color Corp. He was honored with the following awards: Knight of the Year, Sir Knight of the Year and Color Corpman of the Year.

Visitation was held at the Falco/Caruso

& Leonard Pennsauken Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Mary, Queen of All Saints in Pennsauken. Interment was at Lakeview Memorial Park in Cinnaminson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his name to Samaritan Hospice, 3906 Church Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ, 08054 or to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, 4824 Camden Ave., Pennsauken.

Douglas Meyers

Douglas Meyers, 52, passed away on May 25, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Douglas was born on April 3, 1969, in Pennsauken, living in town for over 20 years. He was also a 26-year resident of Pensacola, FL.

Meyers is survived by his wife of 21 years Theresa Ferraro Meyers; parents



Meyers

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QMA is offering immediate positions for Resident Counselors (RC)

QMA's Resident Counselors are responsible for performing tasks that are essential to helping adults with Intellectual/developmental disabilities lead safe and satisfying lives. They assist the people we serve with daily living activities including personal goals, recreation and daily household living. They facilitate proper medical care and meet the physical, emotional and personal needs of the people we serve. Looking for RC's for Camden, Burlington and Cumberland County.

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to fill out an application. Also you can call Danielle Hollis
@ 856-735-1015, or email resume to jpera@qmainc.com
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FOODADVENTURES Is It A Walking Taco Or A Frito Pie? You Decide

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

It was 1982 at the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. It was hot, the crowds were bustling and laughing, and enjoying their time at the fair. There were new foods to be seen in every direction. It was during this event that Petro's Chili & Chips started selling the Walking Taco out of their booth. They were calling it "Petroleum Belly," as the theme of the fair that year was energy, and the walking taco was sure to fuel anyone for the days full of festivities. Petro's eventually became a restaurant chain, and the taco-in-a-bag became a huge success.

The walking taco was evolved from the original dish called Frito pie which was invented in 1949 possibly somewhere in Texas but those origins are

mostly unknown.

For those of you that don't know, walking tacos are a dish popular in the Midwestern and Southwestern United States. Basics of the dish include chili, cheese, and corn chips. As with the regular taco, you can pretty much add any other stuff onto it. This could include anything from salsa, sour cream, and lettuce, all the way to refried beans, avocado, and jalapeños. It's essentially a bag of Fritos corn chips that are opened and chili, along with other dressings, are all put directly in the bag. It's perfect for eating as you walk.

There are even food trucks that exist today that specialize in this festive treat such as The Walking Taco Co. You can find trucks or booths like this at nearly

any local carnival, festival, or food truck event. I recently ventured out to Knoebels Amusement Park, three hours away in Pennsylvania. They had a whole menu specializing in walking tacos right in the center of the park, all for only \$5. The fun in this food is that you can play with whatever goes into it. It has expanded to include things like Doritos or barbecue chips. The tortilla base is what makes it a true walking taco.

The original Frito pie creates more of a casserole dish that can be made for dinner. I searched for some of the most basic recipes and found that you can make this in under 45 minutes. All-recipes.com has a great recipe worth checking out, but this is definitely a Food Adventure worth having some fun with.

I'd love to hear of some of your creations. Bonus points for anyone who posts their masterpiece on my Facebook page "AAP Food Adventures." You

can also email me at foodadventurespennsauken@gmail.com.

Have a blast cooking and creating and always enjoy your Food Adventures.

"Taste Of Pennsauken/Merchantville" Returns August 23

The Woman's Club of Merchantville Evening Membership Department's "Taste of Pennsauken/Merchantville" is returning on Monday, Aug. 23, to the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd., from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For just \$20 a person, attendees will have an opportunity to sample some of this area's finest cuisine. Many of the restaurants and caterers are returning and we are looking to having more par-

ticipate this year. Last time, over 100 people attended, giving restaurants the opportunity to promote their businesses. Proceeds from the event will benefit scholarships and local charities.

For more information, to register your restaurant or catering business, to sponsor a table for \$40 or to order tickets contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com.

Since 1894, the Merchantville Woman's

Club has been one of the leading service organizations in the region. Outstanding women from our community are members committed to making a difference. Among other things, the Club raises money for charitable work while having fun. The Woman's Club is always looking for new members who want to help their community and meet new people. For more information call (609) 410-4650 or email janwh@aol.com.



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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

As we're still getting back in the swing of "normal," here's a reminder of the Friends' second upcoming Lemonade 4 Change event to help raise funds to increase the library's collection of books

Lemonade 4 Change Fundraiser Continues On July 11

on diversity. It's important, especially these days, that we all try to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes" to see things from different perspectives. You can help us help the library by coming out on Sunday, July 11, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Free Public Library,

5605 N. Crescent Blvd., for this fun, drive-through event. No bikes or walk-up, please.

Participants will place their cash donation in the bin – checks are also welcome – then drive through to receive their cold lemonade. Simple, easy, and a

pretty cool – and refreshing – way to help our library and treat yourself in the bargain! We thank you in advance for your support.

Finally, keep an eye out for the YouTube virtual event of our Poetry Contest winners, coming soon on Penn-

sauken TV. The presentation of it will be on our website at pennsaukenlibraryfriends.org. And catch pictures of the winners and their poems on our Friends of the Library Facebook page.

We'll be picking up more events toward the fall, so stay tuned.

Fireworks Safety For Independence Day

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

While fireworks are normally associated with the Fourth of July, there are some people that take their use to the extreme. During the height of the pandemic last year, excessive use of fire-

works late into the evening was the norm, particularly on Independence Day. Not only did this disturb the peace, but their use also promoted dangerous behavior.

According to the Consumer Product

Safety Commission, approximately 7,300 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments between June 21, 2019 and July 21, 2019. That equated to 73 percent of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries for that entire year.

The responsible use of sparklers and novelty fireworks you buy from a retail store, or a supermarket is legal in New Jersey. The sale, possession, or use of other fireworks: Roman candles, mortars, rockets, repeaters, and the like, is 100 percent illegal. Improper use can cause serious and permanent injuries to people, as well as substantial damage to property. In addition, the penalties are significant. If you sell, possess, or use illegal fireworks, it's a crime in the fourth degree. If charged, individuals can pay up to \$10,000 in fines and spend up to 18 months in jail.

When it comes to safely using novelty fireworks, consumer retailer Phantom Fireworks offers these important tips:



While novelty fireworks can be purchased in stores, the use of larger fireworks, like the ones seen during Pennsauken's summer kick off, are illegal in New Jersey.

- Never let children handle or light fireworks of any kind

- Don't consume alcohol or drugs while handling or lighting fireworks
- Read the directions and warning labels before using fireworks
- Use fireworks in a clear, open area away from people
- Don't light more than one firework at a time
- Do not attempt to re-light, alter, or fix any "dud" or malfunction fireworks
- Keep a fire extinguisher, connected water hose, etc. nearby for emergencies
- Always leave commercial fireworks (Roman candles, mortars, rockets, etc.) to the professionals

If fireworks are being lit illegally in your neighborhood, contact the Pennsauken Township Police as the fireworks occur at (856) 663-1234 and provide as many details as possible.

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The Class Of 2021 Graduates From Pennsauken High School continued from page 1

has made our year an interesting one and often times unpredictable,” said PHS Principal Rich Bonkowski, as he addressed the Class of 2021. “You have gained valuable experience in adapting to challenging situations. You persevered through hybrid learning, wearing masks, and social distancing. You will persevere as you begin to navigate your post-high school world.

“The Class of 2021, I wish the best for you in the future. You are all prepared to go and conquer this world. Remember that Pennsauken is proud of you and please be Pennsauken proud.”

At their respective ceremonies, students received poignant remarks from some of their classmates. Sulley Marie Sanchez, president of the Class of 2021, spoke of the memories the students forged together that will last a lifetime.

“As the Class of 2021, we look back at our last four years of Pennsauken High School and recall those distinct instances that will be ingrained in our memories forever,” said Sanchez. “These are the moments that will remind us of our time here and the people who impacted us”

In her speech, Vy Le, valedictorian, referred to “The Coffee Bean: A Simple Lesson to Create Positive Change,” written by Jon Gordon and Damon West. The book was given to Vy by her lacrosse coach, Ms. Shana Smeriglio, dur-

ing a stressful time in Le’s life.

“Are you like an egg, a carrot, or a coffee bean? When a carrot is placed in boiling water, it wilts and becomes soft. An egg is fragile at first but becomes hardened and stiff when placed in boiling water. A coffee bean, when placed into the boiling water releases its flavor and fragrance,” explained Le. “The premise of this book is simple: each of us has the ability to transform our surroundings, overcome challenges, and create positive change.”

Alexa Ruberte, salutatorian, spoke how in the past 14 months, the Class of 2021 not only met the challenges of the global pandemic, but also became part of global and national movements that focused on social justice and equality, ready to take action, and enact change.

“If there is one word though that could describe the Class of 2021, I would adamantly say it would be the word re-

silient,” said Ruberte. “Standing in front of all of you today, I see leaders ready to inherit their roles as future politicians, medical professionals, engineers, and educators of our nation. We may live in unprecedented times, but we will not be ruled by them.”

During the official introduction of the Class of 2021, members of the Pennsauken Board of Education expressed their pride in what these students have accomplished, particularly during the pandemic, and offered some words of advice as these talented young men and women made their way out into the world.

“Believe in yourself, even when others don’t,” said Samer Jarbou-Rafeh. “When the going gets tough, don’t be afraid to ask for help; and there’s no such thing as luck. Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.”

Scott La Vine spoke of John F. Kennedy’s “New Frontier” speech and

how his words relate today. The graduates are also on a new frontier in advances in health, technology, and commerce, as well as the challenges and unrest caused by societal change. “But don’t fear. There are universal truths that don’t change, no matter what you face in the future that will serve you throughout your life’s journey.”

“It is an honor and a privilege for me to stand here and recognize the Class of 2021,” added Diane Johnson. “I believe these students will go out into this world and change it. This pandemic has shown that you are resilient and determined to do great things.”

What followed was the culmination of four years of challenges and accomplish-

ments: the awarding of diplomas to the Class of 2021. Proud family members cheered on their students, as they basked in this special moment. Then came the words everyone wanted to hear.

“Class of 2021, as graduates of Pennsauken High School, you may now flip your tassel to the left side,” said Pennsauken Board of Education President Nick Perry. “You are officially graduated.”

As the newest alumni of Pennsauken High School processed out, they were greeted by loving family and best friends, embracing with tears of joy – something that wouldn’t have been considered mere months ago – ready to continue the celebration of their special day.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Patrick Olivo Joins Pennsauken Township Committee

continued from page 1

1997, Olivo has fond memories of growing up in town and playing PYAA sports.

“I just love the community,” said Olivo. “My family has been here for a long time. I couldn’t ask for anything better. I really am Pennsauken proud.”

“I’d like to welcome Patrick Olivo to

Township Committee. We’re honored to have him,” adds Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. “We have an incredible team on Committee and he’s going to be a great asset. His hard work and dedication to this Township already is a true testament to the kind of the person he is.”



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inSports Golfing Lessons Help Those In Recovery

Last month, Camden County Commissioner Al Dyer joined a group of individuals in addiction recovery for golf lessons at the Camden County Golf Academy in Pennsauken. The Commissioner Board's Addiction Awareness Task Force hosts Recovery Encouragement Athletic Leagues (REAL) to support individuals combatting addiction.

"REAL Golf is about giving folks in recovery something healthy that they can focus their mind, body, and energy on," Dyer said. "In addition to golf, we host REAL yoga and other athletic leagues throughout the year. Our goal is to help make the recovery process a little bit smoother, and to help guide these individuals into a healthier, sustainable lifestyle."

The Camden County Addiction Awareness Task Force, created by the



Camden County Commissioner Al Dyer joined golfers in addiction recovery for lessons at the Camden County Golf Academy in Pennsauken.

Commissioner Board in 2014, maintains a list of available resources and services at addictions.camdencounty.com to prevent and treat addiction. If you or a loved

one needs help, please call the 24/7 toll-free confidential hotline for addiction help at 877-266-8222 or call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.



Free Pickleball Lessons On Saturdays

Come out to Pennsauken's pickleball courts for free lessons to learn this popular sport. Held on Saturdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the courts on 6170 River

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11 Library Closed Lemonade 4 Change	12 Staff Picks Live on Facebook	13 Animal Tales Storytime Crafty Critters	14 Virtual Guitar Concert	15 Storytime in The Park	16	17 All Ages Tie Dyeing
18 Closed	19 Animal Crossing Open Play	20 Animal Tales Storytime Kidz & Petz Kitchen	21 Maker Camp #2	22 Yoga Storytime	23 DIY Cruelty-Free Self-Care	24
25 Closed	26 Staff Picks Live on Facebook	27 Animal Tales Storytime Crafty Critters	28	29 Talewise: Revenge of the Toxic Robot	30	31 Woofstock Festival

inSports Pennsauken: Track Town USA

Pennsauken High School's track and field team has earned the number one ranking in South Jersey for the first time in program history. The sensational sophomore group of Bryce Tucker, Premier Wynn, Ejani Shakir, and Kahlil Ali were named All South Jersey in multiple events. But the team runs deeper and faster than just that group, as 11 different members of the team scored points as PHS won their first ever sectional team title and a Group III state championship.

"This is the deepest and most talented team we have ever had," said Coach Clinton Tabb. "We are just getting started, as Chris Weaver is the only senior on the team."

Pennsauken not only won the team championship but became the first school in the history of New Jersey Track and Field to host the state championship and win on their home track.

"It was an amazing weekend. We hosted over 200 teams and 3,000 people, and we won. It was truly a team effort, Kids, coaches, staff, facilities, everyone contributed," said Billy Snyder, Pennsauken's Athletic Director.

In addition, Pennsauken's unified track and field team won their team state championship. Unified sports are a combination of special needs students and regular education students working together athletically. Currently, Pennsauken



Pennsauken's track and field team ranks number one for the first time in program history, winning the Group III state championship last month.

High School has unified programs in soccer, bowling, and track and field.

"Watching our kids run in front of a crowd of over 1,000 people, made me cry.

And to win was just the icing on the cake," said Coach Maureen O'Brien-Wagner.

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Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities (PYAA) is accepting volunteers for the 2021 season. Meetings will be held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for Pennsauken residents at the PYAA Fieldhouse, 3501 Elm Ave. Come support the youth of Pennsauken, develop lasting relationships, and have fun!

Interested parties who have questions can email admin@pyaa.net. For more information about the organization and its programs, visit PYAA.net.

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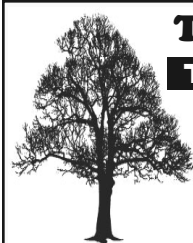
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